

Media Contact Information
Elliott Sprehe
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277
512-463-4828 / Fax 512-475-2395
elliott.sprehe@tvc.texas.gov
press@tvc.texas.gov

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release: September 23, 2015 Release No. 20150922-01

# **Top Texas Veteran employers recognized by Texas Veterans Commission**

**GALVESTON, TEXAS** –During the Texas Veterans Commission 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Training Conference held Sept. 15 in Galveston, Texas, several Texas employers received awards for their special efforts to recruit Veterans.

"These employers represent the very best in Texas when it comes to supporting Veterans," said Thomas Palladino, executive director of the Texas Veterans Commission. "Their continued support of the Veteran community in Texas deserves utmost recognition and we're honored that we can salute them during this ceremony."

More than 32,000 Texas Veterans entered employment last year after receiving services from Texas Veterans Commission Veterans Employment staff, the most of any state in the nation. Many Texas businesses and government agencies actively engage with the Texas Veterans Commission to find and hire Veteran job seekers which made the award selections very competitive.

#### **Annual Employer Award Recipients**

#### **Large Employer Award (251+ employees)**

AT&T Inc. (American Telephone & Telegraph), Dallas TX AT&T has a Texas workforce of more than 18,000, of which 19% are Veterans. AT&T hired 4,200 new employees during the year of which 58% were Veterans.

#### Medium Employer Award (51 to 250 employees)

G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc., San Marcos, TX

G4S Secure Solutions has a workforce of 181 of which 93% were Veterans. They hired 65 individuals during the year and 88% were Veterans.

### Small Employer Award (50 or fewer employees) and Disabled Veterans Employer Award

Veteran Energy, Houston, TX

Veteran Energy has a workforce of 20 of which 90% are Veterans and 75% are Disabled Veterans. Veteran Energy hired 18 employers during the year of which 94% are Veterans and 71% are Disabled Veterans.

## The Extra Mile Award is for the company goes the extra mile in hiring Veterans NextOp, Houston, TX

John Boerstler, executive director of NextOp, is a strong advocate for Veterans. Boerstler serves on the Board of Directors for the Lone Star Veterans Association, the Texas Veterans Commission Communications Advisory Committee, and Family Services of Greater Houston.

#### Public Entity (Government agencies)-Large Award (1,500+ employees)

Texas Workforce Commission headquartered in Austin TX.

The Texas Workforce Commission has a workforce of 2797, of which 11% are Veterans. They hired 334 employees during the year and 31.4% of them are Veterans.

#### **Public Entity-Medium Award (200-1500 employees)**

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA), headquartered in Waco, TX.

The VA in Waco has a workforce of 249 of which 62% are Veterans. They hired 137 individuals during this past year and 62% of them are Veterans.

#### **Public Entity-Small Award (200 or fewer employees)**

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA), located in the Killeen Heights Vet Center. The Killeen Heights Vet Center has a workforce of 11 of which 100% are Veterans. They hired four new employees during the year and all of them are Veterans.

#### **Grantee of the Year Award**

Tarrant County Veterans Court Diversion Program (TCVCDP), located in Fort Worth, TX.

The Tarrant County Veterans Court Diversion Program (TCVCDP) is an alternative to incarceration to divert non-violent offenders who are Veterans from prosecution to available treatment. This year Tarrant County Veterans Court served 67 Veterans in the Veterans Court Diversion Program.

#### **Local Workforce Center of the Year**

Westheimer Workforce Solutions in Houston, TX

The Westheimer Workforce Center met or exceeded all of its negotiated performance standards and provided outstanding services to Texas Veterans and their families.

#### Local Workforce Development Board of the Year

Southeast Workforce Development Board in the Beaumont, TX.

The Southeast Workforce Board met or exceeded all of its negotiated performance standards and provided outstanding services and instituted innovative programs to employ Texas Veterans.

#### Texas Veterans Commission

The Texas Veterans Commission employment program has more than 170 representatives in 75 cities across the state that assists local employers in finding the best Veteran candidates for their company's needs. For more information about Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <a href="http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx">http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx</a>.